

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 311

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 2203

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BU

SUBJECT: DEPUTY SECRETARY'S LUNCHEON WITH AMBASSADOR POPOV

REF: A) STATE 237047

B) SOFIA 2067

1. NO BULGARIAN MOVEMENT ON DIVIDED FAMILY CASES HAS BEEN DISCERNIBLE HERE IN WAKE OF ZHIVKOV'S STATEMENT ON SUBJECT TO DEPUTY SECRETARY. WE STILL BELIEVE IT BEST TO START OUT BY COMPLIMENTING POPOV ON THE STATESMANLIKE WAY IN WHICH PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV HAS DEALT WITH THIS PROBLEM, AND SAYING THAT WE TAKE WHAT HE SAID VERY SERIOUSLY. THEN THE DEPUTY SECRETARY MIGHT ASK POPOV HOW GOB INTENDS FOLLOW UP ON ZHIVKOV'S "COMMITMENT".

2. ABOVE COULD ALSO BE TIED IN WITH STRONG REAFFIRMATION OF US POSITION ON CSCE, EMPHASIZING US CONCERN WITH PRACTICAL RESULTS AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE REPORTS AND UNAMBIGUOUS STATEMENTS BY BULGARIAN LEADERS, BOTH PUBLICLY AND IN PRIVATE, ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THAT DOCUMENT.

3. DEPUTY SECRETARY MAY ALSO WISH TO ALLUDE TO HIS CONVERSATION WITH MME. LYUDMILLA ZHIVKOVA RE EFFORTS OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES TO ARRANGE EXCHANGES WITH UNIVERSITY OF SOFIA, AS WELL AS
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INCREASED FLOW OF CULTURAL AND INFORMATION MATERIALS

AS CALLED FOR IN ACT OF HELSINKI. DEPUTY SECRETARY
COULD GO ON TO NOTE OUR HOPE FOR POSITIVE
RESPONSES AND EARLY ACTION. FYI: SIMILARLY, WE
HAVE HAD NO REPLY FROM ZHIVKOVA ON "PHOTOGRAPHY
USA" EXHIBIT, ALSO RAISED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY, BUT
BELIEVE IT IS NOW TOO LATE TO SCHEDULE FOR SHOWING
HERE.

4. WHILE NOT SUITABLE FOR RAISING OR REITERATION AT
SUCH HIGH LEVEL, WE TRUST DEPARTMENT HAS FOUND WAY
BY NOW TO FOLLOW UP ON EXCHANGE OF CHANCERY
PROPERTIES AND JOINT STATEMENT ON AGRICULTURAL
TRADE AS WE RECOMMENDED IN PARA 6 REFTTEL B.

5. ONE RELATED POINT. IT HAS LONG BEEN A GRIEVANCE
WITH POPOV AND WITH THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT THAT HE
HAS BEEN UNABLE TO SEE THE RANKING STATE DEPARTMENT
OFFICIAL DEALING WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, COUNSELOR
HELMUT SONNENFELDT. WE HOPE SONNENFELDT CAN BE INCLUDED
IN THE LUNCHEON PLANNED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY; AND
IN ANY CASE THAT AN OCCASION WILL SOON BE FOUND FOR
MR. SONNENFELDT TO HAVE A SUBSTANTIVE MEETING WITH
POPOV. THIS WILL ALSO PAY DIVIDENDS HERE AND, ADDED
TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S LUNCHEON, WILL EXPLODE THE
BULGARIAN ARGUMENT THAT THEIR AMBASSADOR HAS DIFFICULTY
OBTAINING ACCESS TO PERSONS IN AUTHORITY IN THE DEPART-
MENT.
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